Dodd at Ice Capades

A Television Lobbyist Entertained Senator Probing Number of Sex-Crime Shows

By Drew Pearson

FLORENCE LOWE, efficient lobbyist for the Metromedia radio-TV chain, invited four busloads of Washington celebrities to watch the latest Ice Capades opening, among them Sen. and Mrs. Tom Dodd of Connecticut.

The Ice Capades is a thrilling show, and Metromedia, which has been reaping large profits from TV, has branched out into other businesses just as CBS has acquired "My Fair Lady" and the New York Yankees. Actually the TV networks, except for ABC, don't know what to do with their dough.

Some of Metromedia's handsome profits were made by featuring crime and sex on TV, which the Senate Juvenile Delinquency Committee says contribute to juvenile delinquency. And when the Juvenile Delinquency Committee staff found Metromedia's proportion of sex-crime TV shows higher than any other network's, Sen. Tom Dodd, chairman of the committee, started to investigate.

However, efficient lobbyist Florence Lowe had other ideas. She deluged the Senator with all sorts of entertainment, ranging from dinners at the Women's National Press Club to receptions given in honor of Dodd by Metromedia owner John Kluge. The entertainment worked.

Mrs. Lowe was able to persuade Dodd to put her son on the staff of the Juvenile Delinquency Committee, a position from which he could report to her on what investigating, if any, Dodd was doing. Dodd ended up by not probing Metromedia.

When Mrs. Lowe invited Sen. Dodd to the Ice Capades opening last month, she was horrified when a photographer for the Washington Star snapped the Senator and his wife. Mrs. Lowe pleaded with the photographer not to use the picture.

"Drew Pearson might see it," she said, "and would then write another story."

The Star published the picture, and Mrs. Lowe was right.

Tarnished Showcase

NIGERIA, ONCE Africa's showplace of democracy, is reported on the brink of civil war. It could go the way of the Congo. The trouble is partly religious—the wealthier eastern region being Christian, the northern larger area being Moslem. The Moslem northerners control the most powerful segments of the army, and there has been fear that they might launch another campaign of murder and terror in the east.

Complicating the situation is the fact that the Italians recently sold three jet fighter planes to the Moslem north, plus munition export licenses for 2045 rifles, 80 pistols and 800,000 cartridges.

At a meeting of the four regions of Nigeria in Ghana Jan. 4 and 5, it was agreed that the four regions should resume cooperation and renounce the use of force. As one step in this direction, it was agreed there should be no more importation of arms and ammunition.

But three weeks later, the northern Moslem region bought the arms from Italy.

The United States had placed great hope in Nigeria, but now it appears that only vigorous United States diplomacy can head off another civil war.

Personals

Guillermo Gerberding, Peruvian charge d'affaires — Many thanks for setting me straight regarding the War of the Pacific among Peru, Chile and Bolivia. You are quite right that Chile was the aggressor against both Peru and Bolivia. However, you are not right in denying my statement that "Ecuador had one third of its territory taken away by Peru in 1941."

Jackson Leighter, New York City—The Justice Department has now admitted FBI eavesdropping on Charles J. O'Brien, a sort of adopted son to Jimmy Hoffa. O'Brien's room was bugged while he was staying in Hoffa's home in Detroit in 1964 and also in a hotel in Chattanooga. This makes it very difficult for the public to believe the Justice Department's claim that neither Hoffa nor his lawyers were bugged. Apparently everyone around Hoffa was bugged and, according to affidavits submitted to the Supreme Court, so were his lawyers and prospective jurors.

Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Embassy—Regarding your government's desire to buy a small, peaceful United States submarine for underwater exploring, one of the top experts on this type of submarine is John H. Perry, publisher of the Palm Beach News and Post. Perry has built small one-man subs for exploration of the ocean bottom.

Award Backfires

SECRETARY of Interior Stewart Udall, who is in charge of cleaning up water pollution, is redfaced over helping to present the Anti-Air Pollution Award to Louis A. Wehde of the Ford Motor Co. The award backfired.

Udall and Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman were photographed presenting the award to Wehde. The photo got wide circulation in Michigan where Ford is accused of polluting the air around its Dearborn plant to the point where some residents stay inside to keep steel dust out of their eyes.

Udall and Freeman got in on the award to Wehde because the National Wildlife Federation, which has done a good job in conserving wildlife, picked Wehde for its 1966 distinguished service award. They were not aware of the air pollution condition around Dearborn.

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